

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows. A marked-up copy of the claims, showing the amendments made, is attached hereto as Attachment I.

1. (Original) A vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said vending machine including a door for retrofitting an existing vending machine, said door comprising:

a storage unit for storing a plurality of items for sale and a dispensing mechanism for dispensing the items from said storage unit;

a selector device for selecting one or more of said items for sale by a customer;

a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for sale of an item and for actuating said dispensing mechanism when a payment is received to dispense a selected item; and

a computer assembly connected to said storage and dispensing unit, selector device and payment control device and having a computer, video display screen and a communication network, whereby said computer is connected to and actuated by said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a preselected internet site and automatically displaying information obtained from said internet site on said video screen for viewing by the customer, said computer assembly further including customer actuating means for enabling a customer to interface with said computer.

2. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, wherein said communication network comprises a modem and said computer assembly further includes a telephone line connection for connecting said computer to said internet site.

3. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 1, wherein said computer comprises software for selectively connecting said computer to a plurality of different internet sites, and being connected to said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a specific internet site in response to a selected item.

4. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, said computer assembly further comprising

data storage means connected to said selector device for displaying selected stored information in response to a selection of items by a customer.

5. (Original) The vending machine of claim 4, wherein said computer displays information from said data storage means at idle times of said vending machine.

6. (Original) The vending machine of claim 5, further comprising a speaker for broadcasting audio signals, where said data storage means transmits signals to said video screen and speaker to display advertising information from said data storage means.

7. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further comprising user operated keypad and trackball for operating said computer to connect said computer to an internet site selected by said customer.

8. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further including speakers for receiving audio transmissions from said internet site.

9. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, said computer further comprising an audio display device, a microphone and audio recording device for recording audio by said customer.

10. (Original) The vending machine of claim 9, wherein said computer further comprises a camera and video recording device for recording an image of said customer.

11. (Original) The vending machine of claim 1, wherein said computer further comprises a central control unit for an audio-visual connection to an internet site;
a transmission unit for transmitting an audio-visual signal from said computer to said internet site;
a receiving unit for receiving audio-visual signals from said internet site; and
a recording unit for recording and storing said audio-visual signals.

12. (Original) A door for retrofitting an existing vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said door comprising:

a storage unit for storing a plurality of different items for sale and a dispensing mechanism for dispensing the items from storage unit;

a selector device for selecting one or more of said items for sale by the customer;

a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for sale of an item and for actuating said dispensing mechanism when a payment is received to dispense a selected item; and

a computer assembly connected to said storage and dispensing unit, selector device and payment control device, and having a computer, video display screen and a modem, whereby said computer is connected to and actuated by said selector device for automatically connecting said computer to a pre-selected internet site and automatically displaying information obtained from said internet address on said video screen for viewing by the customer.

13.-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A door for retrofitting an existing vending machine for dispensing of at least one item selected by a customer, said door comprising:

a delivery port for dispensing said at least one item selected by a customer to the customer;

and

an access portal to the Internet on said door for interaction of the customer with the Internet.

32. (Previously Presented) A vending machine comprising the door of claim 31, said vending machine further including a storage unit for storing said at least one item for selection by a customer.

33. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, wherein said door further comprises a dispensing mechanism for dispensing said at least one item.

34. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, wherein at least one of a telephone connection, cable, modem, antenna, and satellite dish is provided for interacting with other transmitters and receivers.

35. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 34, wherein the other receiver is capable of receiving and utilizing data.

36. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, wherein said selected item is at least one item selected from the group consisting of cans, bottles, hot and cold drinks in cups, sandwiches, candy, combs, money, CD-ROM, diskettes, and laser-discs.

37. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising:
at least one mechanism selected from the group including data storage unit, programmable
audio-video message storage unit, laser-disc, read-write CD-ROM, read only memory recording
medium, magnetic media and diskette for storage of data and recording, storage and playback of
audio and video signals,

wherein a customer is enabled respectively to upload and download audio and video signals
from and to said mechanism to and from websites and home pages, and to send and receive data
from and to said mechanism to and from other data transmitters or receivers.

38. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 37, further comprising:
a camera connected to a computer for generating video signals; and
a microphone connected to a computer for generating audio signals, wherein said microphone
generated audio and camera generated video signals are recorded alone or in combination with
already recorded audio and visual signals by said at least one mechanism.

39. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising:
a camera connected to a computer for generating video signals;
a microphone connected to said computer for generating audio signals; and
at least one audio-video mechanism connected to said computer for recording said audio and
video signals.

40. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 39, wherein said signals provide a two-way communication via the Internet.

41. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 40, wherein said at least one audio-video mechanism is selected from the group consisting of data storage mechanism, laser-disc, read-write CD-ROM, and diskette, whereby said signals are recorded by said at least one audio-video mechanism and dispensed to the customer.

42.-59. (Cancelled.)

60. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising at least one of a telephone connection, cable, modem, antennae and satellite dish.

61. (Previously Presented) The door of claim 31, further comprising a money delivery port.

62. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, wherein said dispensed item is money.

63. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, wherein said door further comprises means for two-way interactive communications by a customer with the Internet.

64. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a video screen.

65. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises speakers.

66. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a keypad.

67. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a trackball.

68. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a camera.

69. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a programmable selection panel for selecting websites or home pages to transmit-receive data, music, video and audio and to provide visual and digital recording functions.

70. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a headphone.

71. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a microphone.

72. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a credit card reader.

73. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprising means for displaying pricing information for the Internet.

74. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprises a scratch pad memory unit.

75. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein the door further comprising means to display time left to browse web sites.

76. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, further including a programmable selection panel for selecting web sites, home pages of web sites, and on-line computer services to provide at least one of data, music or video.

77. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, further including means to accept input from a customer.

78. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 77, wherein a computer is also connected to the means to accept input from a customer.

79. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, wherein said vending machine is connected to an Internet service provider by a communication network system which enables two-way multimedia interactive communication with a customer.

80. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising transmitting and receiving network communication means and content uploading and downloading means to and from Internet sites so as to enable communication between a customer and an owner or operator of said vending machine.

81. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising programmable means to connect the machine to a website or homepage of a manufacturer of the item selected.

82. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising programmable means to connect the machine to a web site or homepage of an owner or operator of the vending machine.

83. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising at least one of an audio or a video interface circuit for two-way interactive communication.

84. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 83, wherein the interface circuit for two-way interactive communication is a video interface circuit.

85. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 82, further comprising means to download a communication onto a mobile recording medium.

86. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 63, wherein the interactive communications are interactive visual communications.

87. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising a credit card acceptor.

88. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising means for accepting payment.

89. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 88, wherein the payment comprises at least one of coins, bills and credit cards.

90. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising means for accepting visual input.

91. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 90, further comprising means for converting said visual input to digital form.

92. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 91, further comprising a communications network to connect the vending machine to a pre-programmed financial web site.

93. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 92, further comprising means to download information from said financial web site.

94. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising an amount deposit acceptor.

95. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 37, wherein said programmable audio-video message storage unit comprises at least one of an optical recording medium, a magnetic recording medium, and an electrically eraseable and programmable read-only memory recording medium.

96. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising a payment control device.

97. (Previously Presented) A combination of a computer and selector provided on a door for retrofitting an existing vending machine for dispensing at least one item selected for purchase by a customer, wherein said computer is connected to and activated by said selector for connecting said computer to the Internet and conveying information from the Internet to a web site or homepage of a manufacturer of the item purchased, or the web site or homepage of an owner or operator of the vending machine.

98. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, further comprising at least one of a programmable microprocessor and an interface circuit.

99. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, further comprising at least one of a digital signal processing unit and an interface circuit.

100. (Previously Presented) A combination of a computer and selector provided on a door for retrofitting an existing vending machine for dispensing at least one item selected by a customer, wherein said computer is connected to and activated by selector device for connecting to a web site or homepage of a web site of an Internet provider.

101. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising software for browsing the Internet.

102. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 78, wherein the computer displays a homepage or website, together with information from an Internet provider.

103. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 102, wherein the computer is connected to the Internet provider via the Internet before the item is dispensed.

104. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising software for connecting a computer with an Internet site.

105. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, wherein an Internet site is selected from the group consisting of an Internet provider, a manufacturer of the item, a vendor of the item, an internet site specified by the customer, an owner of the vending machine, an operator of the vending machine, news web sites, financial web sites, music web sites and an internet site of the property owner where the vending machine is located.

106. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising software for automatically connecting the vending machine to a specific Internet web site.

107. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 106, wherein the specific Internet website transmits and receives at least one of data, audio or video signals.

108. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising means to display advertising when the vending machine is idle.

109. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising an escutcheon plate and a transparent plastic panel with back lighting to display a logo or trademark of a vendor.

110. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising an interface to a communication network to access an on-line computer service, wherein said service is capable of transmitting and receiving, via a communication network, a request for service by a customer and a response to said request.

111. (Previously Presented) The vending machine of claim 32, further comprising a transmit-receive circuit connecting the vending machine with other transmitters and receivers.

112. (Previously Presented) A door for retrofitting an existing vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said door comprising:

a selector device for selecting one or more of said items for sale by the customer;

a payment-control device for receiving and detecting an amount of payment; and

a video display screen for providing interactions by the customer with the Internet.

113. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine of claim 31, further comprising a mouse.

114. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a customer with access to the Internet via a vending machine, said method comprising:

1.) providing a vending machine to vend at least one physical item selected by a customer for purchase;

2.) said purchase of said at least one item permits the customer to be operatively connectable via the Internet to websites;

3.) allowing access to the websites by said customer, said access comprising at least one of inserting money or credit card information into the vending machine and customer input of data to the computer.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, including providing said computer with a modem.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said access for customer input is a keyboard.

117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, including providing at least one of audio, video and multi-media capabilities associated with the vending machine.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said access to the internet is effected by inserting coin, currency or credit card information into said vending machine.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein said access includes providing means for two-way interactive visual communications by a customer with the internet.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, further including the step of providing means to allow the customer to download data, audio or video information from the internet and take it away from the vending machine in the form of magnetic or optical storage media.

121. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, including providing the vending machine with a camera.

122. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein the step of providing said vending machine is in the form of an existing vending machine.

123. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, wherein a customer may transmit data on the internet from the customer's own magnetic or optical storage mediums insertable into drives in the vending machine.

124. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, where a computer is assembled onto the vending machine and said computer also controls various components of the vending machine, in addition to internet access.

125. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, further including providing at least one of telephone, cable or satellite communications on said vending machine.

126. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 114, further including providing a microphone on the vending machine.

127. (Currently Amended) A method of attracting greater patronage to a vending machine, said method comprising:

providing a vending machine with a connection to the internet/worldwide web; and
permitting a customer access to websites on said internet/worldwide web through interaction with said vending machine, wherein at least part of said access is located on a door of the vending machine.

128. (Cancelled)

129. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 127, wherein the access displays at least one of informational, entertainment or advertising when a patron is not accessing the internet/worldwide web.

130. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing vending machines wherein a vending machine is provided to dispense an article to be purchased by a consumer, the improvement comprising incorporating an interactive consumer accessible internet communication system into the vending machine to permit the customer access to websites.

131. (Previously Presented) The door for retrofitting an existing vending machine according to claim 31, wherein said at least one item selected is a drink.

132. (Previously Presented) The vending machine according to claim 32, wherein said at least one item selected is a drink.

133. (Previously Presented) A door for a vending machine for sale of items selected by a customer, said door comprising:

a dispensing mechanism for dispensing an item from among a plurality of items stored in a storage unit of said vending machine,

a selector device permitting the customer to select one or more of said items for sale,

a payment-control device capable of receiving and detecting an amount of payment required for a sale of an item, and

an access portal to the Internet on said door for interaction of the customer with the Internet.

134. (Previously Presented) The door of claim 133, wherein the item selected by the customer is a drink.